

January 14, 1976

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. President, colleagues. Obviously, I would oppose the Luedtke amendment and on a very definite, philosophical basis first. If this Legislature, which is the people of Nebraska, if we accept the statement that this Legislature has no business of instructing state agencies what to do ... what are we here for? It's imperative that this Legislature instruct not only the Arts Council what to do, but the University and the Department of Roads, and the Fish and Wildlife, and all of the rest of the agencies, that we do it strictly through the budget, and through resolutions, and through statutes. We created them. That told them what to do. That is our whole purpose for being here. You possibly could vote for Senator Luedtke's amendment to this resolution, but you certainly could not, even Senator Luedtke cannot, vote for this amendment on the basis that he argued it.

Second, the people of Nebraska desire public display of art. They would like to have monuments around the state. In order for this to be accomplished you're going to need statewide guidance to have this happen. Example, a group of citizens in the Ogallala area are very desirous to design and construct a monument that would be dedicated to livestock brands. Now that's something those people out there are very interested in. For them to get through the maze of organizing and get going it's going to be very difficult without some guidance from knowledgeable people like the Nebraska Arts Council.

I plead with you, please defeat this amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. President, I have a question of Senator Kelly, if he would yield.

SENATOR KELLY: Yes.

SENATOR KOCH: Senator Kelly, who finances Nebraska Arts Council?

SENATOR KELLY: The General Fund and federal funds.

SENATOR KOCH: But how much do we put in the General Fund of the Arts Council? It's a token.

SENATOR KELLY: I do not know. I do not know, but I think it's small, Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: My point is that I don't think that we should recommend to those people, if they see fit to design sculptures that most of us think are traditional and depict Nebraska history, I think we should allow them that privilege without giving them sort of an indirect order to do so. I am proud of the sculptures that the Arts Council presently has going. I'm sorry we're involved in this debate. I was hopeful that they would be in place by July 4, 1976. But through all this folly we have done nothing but to detour them. I'm not too sure we're going to have any in place if we keep this up.